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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 29 2005

U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Application No. : 09/619,391 **Confirmation No.** : 2663
First Named Inventor : Roman SCHERTLER
Filed : July 19, 2000
TC/A.U. : 3726
Examiner : MARC Q. JIMENEZ

Docket No. : 080310.40901C2
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Vacuum Process Apparatus

AFTER-FINAL REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed on or after March 11, 2005.

In response to the assertion that the previously submitted reissue declaration is defective and to the corresponding rejection of Claims 35-43, 45-54, 72 and 73 under 35 USC § 251, applicant submits herewith the Fourth Supplemental Declaration specifically addressed to the issue raised in said Office Action.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is now earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

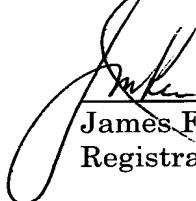
Serial No. 09/619,391

After-Final Amendment Dated: April 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2005

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 080310.40901C2).

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2005



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